REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 2 and 4-9 have been canceled. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from canceled claims 2 and 4. No new matter has been added.

Applicants hereby confirm the election of Group I, claims 1-4. Without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, withdrawn claims 5-9 have been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications related to non-elected subject matter.

The objections to claims 1 and 2 have been obviated by the foregoing amendments to claim 1 and cancellation of claim 2. Further, amended claim 1 clarifies that the recited diameter range applies to both quenching nozzles. See, for example, page 9, line 25 – page 10, line 4, of the present application. Withdrawal of the objections to claims 1 and 2 is accordingly respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,412,309 ("Kajii") in view of *Heat Transfer Using Impinging Air Jet with Under-Expansion*, Nippon Kikai Gakkai Tohoku Shibu Chiho Koenkai Koen Ronbunshu, 2001, pages 111-112 ("Hiroshi") is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from canceled claims 2 and 4. Claims 2 and 4 were not rejected over Kajii in view of Hiroshi. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1, which includes subject matter from canceled claims 2 and 4, is patentable over Kajii in view of Hiroshi, and respectfully request withdrawal of rejection of claim 1 over Kajii in view of Hiroshi.

The rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kajii in view of Hiroshi and further in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,846,281 ("Nikander") and 4,735,646 ("Aratani") is respectfully traversed.

According to the process of amended claim 1, ***an underexpansion jet flow***, which is very effective for rapidly cooling a heated glass, is generated and allowed to blow against the heated glass, and a difference of surface compressive stress values of the thermally tempered glass is ***adjusted to 20MPa or less*** to achieve a good uniform quenching of a curved glass in its entirety by suitably ***setting*** the exit diameters **d** of the quenching nozzles, the distance **Z** between the quenching nozzles and the glass, and the pressure **P** of a chamber communicating with the quenching nozzles, within the respective ranges recited in amended claim 1. (See Page 6, Lines 1-17; Page 9, Lines 6-11; and Page 17, Line 29 – Page 18, Line 5, of the Present Application).

Applicants point out that in Examples 1 to 4 of the present application, an adjustment to 20MPa or less was achieved, and an underexpansion jet flow was also found (see page 18, lines 3-5, of the present application). In contrast, an adjustment to 20MPa or less was ***not*** achieved in Comparative Examples 1 to 3 of the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that that the generation of an underexpansion jet flow and an ***adjustment*** of the difference of surface compressive stress values of the thermally tempered glass to ***20MPa or less*** by the ***setting*** of the exit diameters **d**, the distance **Z** and the pressure **P** are neither disclosed nor suggested by the proposed combination of Kajii, Hiroshi, Nikander, and Aratani. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of rejection of claims 1 and 3 over Kajii in view of Hiroshi and further in view of Nikander and Aratani.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite issuance of the application.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038788.55987US).

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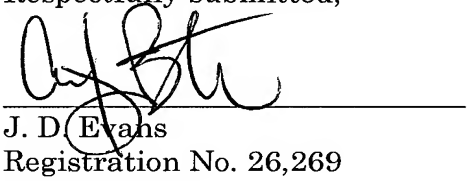
Respectfully submitted,



J. D. Evans
Registration No. 26,269
Asaf Batelman
Registration No. 52,600

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JDE:AB/cee